

There is no faith, no hope, no love in those marriages. The marriage needed to end, so these three women concluded. Respecting their decision, I helped each one use our civil justice system to accomplish their goal.

Because of our civil justice system, and these women's access to it, they finally began to get a glimpse of new life; new beginnings; re-birth; a sense of hope for their future, and their children's future; a renewed faith that once again love might find them, and surround them, and nurture and sustain them. It is exactly what each of us wants in our lives.

I tell you truthfully, when I face my Maker, there are parts of my life for which I will not be proud; but, I will always be proud to have represented these three women, and many, many more like them, Ralph Read notwithstanding.

B. Housing: Few of us—maybe not one of us—will go home tonight worried about losing our house. Right now I have six (6) clients who do worry—daily—about whether they will get to keep their subsidized apartments, for themselves and their children. Let me share one example from rural southern Indiana.

My client is in her 30's, divorced mother, head of household with two children. For reasons known only to God, she is mentally short-changed, with an I.Q. possibly of 70. She contributes 30% of her available monthly income for rent. H.U.D. pays the balance to achieve market rent. She has a small two bedroom apartment. She says, very slowly: "Mr. Robinson, it's the nicest house I've ever had." The apartment complex has sued her and wants to evict her and her children. This has been going on since July. Hence, she worries daily.

Why does management want her out? There are only two (2) allegations: (1) unclean living conditions and (2) an unauthorized over-night guest. Without a lawyer, she has virtually no chance of receiving a just and fair decision, and it has nothing to do with the presiding Judge, but rather with court procedure.

How can that be? The case was filed in Small Claims Court. In Small Claims Court, hearsay is permitted. Thus, the apartment manager, with her lawyer's help, will tell the Judge what a maintenance worker saw (without the worker being personally present in court), and what one of her Indianapolis owners saw (without the owner being personally present), and what certain "notes" in the folder say about unclean conditions. Obviously this tenant can't cross-examine the maintenance man who isn't present, or the Indianapolis owner who isn't present. Even if they were present, my client doesn't know how, and probably is mentally incapable of conducting an effective cross-examination. With a lawyer, however, the scales of justice are again balanced. We filed the appropriate motion to move the case to the Court's Plenary Civil Docket. Now, hearsay basically falls by the wayside. And if the maintenance man appears, I will vigorously cross-examine.

Let me tell you that as to the accusation of uncleanness, I have been in her home, with my legal assistant, three times. It has always been neat, tidy and clean (as I understand the plain meaning of those words).

As to the allegation of an unauthorized guest, the facts are these. After the funeral for her infant child, in her grief, she did request a friend to stay with her for two nights; the friend did. Overnight guests are not categorically prohibited under the lease; management simply doesn't want extended visitors—and rightly so. But one visitor, for two nights, following this traumatic event, is neither unreasonable, nor a violation of her lease. My client, however, could not

make that argument on her own! She needs a lawyer. And for now, at least, she has one.

C. Child survivor benefits: the Social Security Administration.—We represented a 5 year old child who never knew her daddy. While she was still in utero, her daddy drowned in a tragic boating accident on July 4th. Her mother and father had not yet married, but were making plans to marry. They had already talked with both sets of parents, and had their full support. The pregnant mother lived at home with her own parents, in part because the medical costs of pregnancy and delivery were covered by her father's health provider. The child's daddy finally had a pretty good paying job, but of course no benefits.

Because of the untimely death, there was never a marriage. Paternity was never established because everyone knew who the daddy was. Eventually the mother applied for her daughter's Social Security Survivor's benefits. Her initial application was denied. Then came the hearing before the Administrative Law Judge; the child's application was again denied. Next came Appeals Council, located in Arlington, Virginia, and she was again denied. Now the real question: Whether to sue the Secretary of Health and Human Services in Federal District Court? The United States would be defended by the U.S. Department of Justice, through the U.S. Attorney's Office in Indianapolis. At this time, the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago (whose cases generally have binding precedent on Indiana federal judges) had three (3) decided cases, each on point, and each against our client's position. There was not much to be hopeful about.

Nonetheless, we sued in federal court. We briefed the issues. We carefully distinguished each of the three 7th Circuit cases. The legal issue was whether daddy, before his death, had "substantially contributed to the care of the child." As an aside, let me tell you that if daddy and his pregnant fiancée had been living together, without marriage, then our government would have given the child the requested benefits. It would have been relatively straightforward. But, this couple had chosen to live with their parents, not each other.

The end of this long and painful journey is that we won. The Federal Judge, the Honorable S. Hugh Dillin, issued a carefully crafted decision, following almost exactly our argument. And, the Justice Department decided not to appeal. That sizable award of money, invested until age 18, secured this small child's college education. It was accomplished by a Legal Services lawyer, namely me.

Closing: Floyd County is unique among our 11 counties in southeastern Indiana. The Floyd County Bar Association has had a Pro Bono Project for the past year. I serve on that committee. About 20 lawyers have volunteered up to 50 hours per year of free legal services to poor people. That also means that about 120 lawyers have not. But 20 is an excellent start for the project's first year. I'm proud to say that an attorney in this congregation is one of those 20 lawyers committed to serving the poor through this project.

In closing, with the substantial reduction in Congressional funding for the Legal Services Corporation, and its very possible complete elimination, may each of us here tonight remember the Prophet Micah's challenge to the people of God to "Do Justice", as thousands of poor people in southeastern Indiana increasingly realize that not only is Justice hard to achieve, but that access to Justice is in very short supply.

Thank you for your concern.

THE MACOMB MOSAIC

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 1995

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to represent the 10th Congressional District of Michigan. It includes most of Macomb County, which is where I was raised. Although there are rural parts of Macomb, most of the residents live in what is a portion of suburban Detroit. The economic opportunities in the area have drawn people here, including my family, for close to a century. Because of this, Macomb County has developed a rich ethnic, racial, and religious diversity.

In the ongoing effort to build a stronger and better sense of community, several organizations have designated this as "Macomb Mosaic Week." On Saturday, November 4, the week will culminate with a Morning Forum at Macomb Community College. The focus of this forum is to create greater understanding, respect, and appreciation for the diversity of backgrounds and experiences of the people who live in and around Macomb County. The morning's events include an international and multicultural festival, several workshops, and a performance by actor and comedian, Teja Arboleda.

The Macomb Intermediate School District [MISD], Macomb Community College [MCC], and the Interfaith Center for Racial Justice are the main sponsors of this worthwhile endeavor. With the diversity of students that the MISD and MCC are responsible for educating, I am pleased to see their commitment to ensuring that school is a place where all students may receive the skills necessary to live a good life while developing an appreciation for the diversity that exists in our community. The Interfaith Center for Racial Justice was formed after the civil disturbances in the late 1960's with the belief that education was the key to creating a more understanding society. I applaud these three groups and the many other organizations and individuals who share a commitment to building respect and tolerance through education.

Ignorance often constructs and maintains the walls of misunderstanding. However, through this educational effort, the bridges of understanding will be strengthened and the colorful mosaic that is Macomb will grow brighter. I wholeheartedly support the Macomb Mosaic and I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting the sponsors and participants in this important and valuable project.

TRIBUTE TO TRAVIS ROY

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 1995

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the strength, courage, and determination of Travis Roy, a freshman player for Boston University's world-class hockey team. On October 20, 1995, Travis was paralyzed from the neck down while playing in his first collegiate hockey game.

Born on April 17, 1975, Travis spent his childhood in Yarmouth, ME, a closely-knit